

ESPERANZA RISING

Story by
Pam Munoz Ryan

Adapted by
Lynne Alvarez

Perusal Copy

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Esperanza Rising was first presented by The Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis for the 2005-2006 season. All Rights Reserved.

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LIST OF CHARACTERS

Principal Characters In Order of Appearance:

- ESPERANZA.....wealthy rancher's daughter
- HORTENSIA..... maid from Oaxaca
- THREE MARIACHIS.....musicians/clowns/mailman DON
- SIXTO..... Landowner,Esperanza's father
- RAMONA..... Esperanza's mother, Sixto's wife
- SERVANT GIRL.....8yrs old
- MARIELENA.....Esperanza's best friend
- MIGUEL.....ranch hand, Hortensia's son
- LUIS.....Sixto's brother, town mayor, bank owner
- “OKIE” FAMILY
- Boy..... 8 years old
- Father
- Mother
- ISABEL.....8yr old. Miguel's cousin
- MODESTA.....Isabel's young mother,Hortensia's sister-in-law
- ALFONSO.....Modesta's husband,Hortensia's brother
- MARTA..... Modesta's sister.
- WOMEN WORKERS I,II and III

There are also crowd scenes with peasant workers, people crossing the border, neighbors at the camp, guards, strikers, workers at the fiesta. All actors not in a specific scene can be used as part of the crowd in that scene.

All action takes place between 1929-1930 at Rancho Linda Flor,at the Mexico-USA border crossing and at various locations at the workers camp in California.

ACT 1: SCENE 1

OPENING SONG:

M(ariachi)1
(SHOUTS OVER MUSIC)
Mexico!

M2
Viva mexico!

M3
Viva Mexico!

ALL THREE
Bonito es mexico entero
Bella tierra nacional
Donde Dios puso un letrero
Como esta no hay otra igual!

M1
Yes. Yes. I love you Mexico!

M2
Mexico Lindo!

M3
Ahora en ingles!

ALL THREE
All of Mexico is beautiful
As seen with loving eyes
Where God himself put up a sign
This is paradise!

M1
You tell them!

M2
Okay!

M2
La Virgen tendio su manto
En la tierra de amor

Y con eso hizo el rancho
Que se llama linda flor!

M3

Yes. Yes. El rancho Linda Flor

M1

In the state of Aguascalientes!

ALL

The Virgen spread her mantle
Over a land that she adored
And so created el rancho
That we now call Linda Flor.

(THE STAGE IS DARK EXCEPT FOR A SPLENDID BED LOOKING AS IF IT IS SUSPENDED IN AIR.AMONG THE WHITE LACE COVERS AND MANY RUFFLED AND BEADED WHITE PILLOWS WE SEE MOVEMENT.ESPERANZA TURNS OVER IN HER SLEEP. DRESSED IN A WHITE SILK AND LACE NIGHTGOWN, SHE AT FIRST LOOKS LIKE PART OF THE BED.BUT WE SEE HER DARK HEAD MOVE.

SHE LIFTS HER HEAD AND SUDDENLY A HUGE PILE OF COLORFULLY WRAPPED BIRTHDAY PRESENTS LIGHTS UP AT THE FOOT OF HER BED WHICH WE NOW SEE IS ON A PLATFORM. SHE SITS UP AND AS SHE DOES HORTENSIA IN LOCAL DRESS RUSHES IN WITH A SILVER TRAY WITH A BRUSH AND ROSES ON IT.)

HORTENSIA

They're coming. They're coming. Miss Esperanza. Quick into your dress.
(ESPERANZA GETS UP SLEEPILY AND HOLDS OUT HER ARMS. HORTENSIA SLIPS ON HER WHITE FRILLY DRESS AND BUTTONS IT).

ESPERANZA

You woke me up! I was having the best dream!

HORTENSIA

May the rest of your life be a beautiful dream, nina . But now- hurry!.Let's brush your hair!
(HORTENSIA BRUSHES OUT HER HAIR)

ESPERANZA

I want the red satin ribbon.

HORTENSIA

The white one is just as pretty.

ESPERANZA

You didn't iron the red one, did you!

HORTENSIA

I've been busy with your birthday.

ESPERANZA

Fine then. The white one will do.

Ouch- You're pulling my hair!

HORTENSIA

Que latosa es Usted!.

(WE HEAR THE BEGINNING OF 'CIELITO LINDO". AS HORTENSIA TIES THE RIBBON IN ESPERANZA'S HAIR)

ESPERANZA

They're here! Hurry up!

(SHE RUNS TO THROW OPEN THE LARGE DOORS TO THE PATIO. LIGHT STREAMS IN. THE THREE MARIACHIS, THEIR BLACK SUITS STUDED WITH SILVER START PLAYING AND SINGING THE TRADITIONAL BIRTHDAY SONG "LAS MANANITAS". TWO CAMPESINOS ARE HOLDING POLES WITH A BANNER SAYING 'RANCHO LAS TRES ROSAS" WITH THREE LARGE BEAUTIFUL ROSES PAINTED ON IT. BEHIND THEM IS A CROWD OF CAMPESINOS IN WORK CLOTHES, AND A LITTLE SERVANT GIRL. FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE THERE TOO- DECKED OUT IN EUROPEAN STYLE. ESPERANZA'S FATHER ,SIXTO, IS HOLDING TWO ROSES. MIGUEL BESIDE HIM IS HOLDING A LARGE BRIGHTLY WRAPPED BOX. THEY ALL SING.)

ALL

Estas son las mananitas
Que cantaba el rey David
A las muchachas bonitas
Se las cantaba asi:

Despierta mi bien, despierta
Que ya se amanecio
Y los pajaros ya cantan
La luna ya se metio.

(THEY END WITH CHEERS OF "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" FELIZ CUMPLEANOS, AND SOME CHANT, "ESPERAN-ZA!", ESPERAN-ZA!" AND CLAP. THEY ALL COME FORWARD WITH LITTLE GIFTS OR OFFERINGS OF FRUIT)

ESPERANZA

Mama,Papa-what a beautiful fiesta ! You've made me very happy.

RAMONA

Then I'm happy too.

SIXTO

(APPROACHES WITH MIGUEL BEHIND HIM)

M'hija adorada! What a sad birthday it would be without a gift of roses!
Twelve roses- one perfect rose for each precious year of your life!

ESPERANZA

Mmmmmmm. Huele a dulce. They smell so delicious.

(THE LITTLE SERVANT GIRL COMES UP AND STANDS ON TIPTOE TO SMELL THEM. FIRST SHE LOOKS AT SIXTO TO MAKE SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT. HE NODS TO ESPERANZA WHO HOLDS THEM OUT TO THE GIRL.)

SERVANT GIRL

Mmmmmmm. Huele a dulce. *(SHE RUNS AWAY)*

ESPERANZA

Ay!

SIXTO

What is it?

ESPERANZA

My finger. Look, mama

HORTENSIA

(CROSSES HERSELF)
That means bad luck!

SIXTO

No Hortensia- that's life- No hay rosas sin espinas. You can't have roses without thorns.

RAMONA

(RUBS HER FINGER)

Sana, sana
Colita de rana
Si no sana hoy
Sanara manana!

SIXTO

(HE KISSES HER FINGER)

Now
All better! Yes?

ESPERANZA

Yes papa.

SIXTO

Miguel.Ven.

(MIGUEL STEPS FORWARD WITH THE PACKAGE)

As I have every year since you were born-a beautiful doll for my own munequita

ESPERANZA

Yes! Yes!

(MARIELENA APPROACHES TO SEE.)

SIXTO

This year's doll comes right from Spain-Sevilla..con mantilla. Ole!

ESPERANZA

Oooooooooo.

SIXTO

This doll is the most special of any I have given you before. Do you know why?.

ESPERANZA

It's the most beautiful!

It's eyes open and close!

SIXTO

No. this doll is special because it is the last doll I will ever give you.

ESPERANZA

But papa-

SIXTO

Next year you'll be thirteen.On your way to being a young woman. You won't want dolls anymore.

ESPERANZA

I'll always want dolls!

SIXTO

I'm afraid not.You'll want dresses and purses and shawls and even more ribbons for your hair. So treasure this doll- and keep it always to remember what it was like to be twelve and how much your papa loved you!

Now- todos- a divertirse! Today is a fiesta.Dance, eat, drink, andale mi gente. You too Miguelin, Dona Hortensia!

(SOME CAMPESINOS COME UP AND KISS SIXTO'S HAND OR RAMONA'S AND SAY "gracias patron", "gracias seno", "gracias patrona", senora" THEY SAY "felicidades senito" TO ESPERANZA)

(SIXTO GOES TO RAMONA AND PRESENTS HER WITH A SINGLE ROSE)

SIXTO

And you, mi amor, as I said since the first day I met you- I give you my life in this rose!

RAMONA

You have such good taste.

SIXTO

Yes. Of course, the good taste to fall in love forever!
Shall we dance?

(HUGE PLATTERS OF FOOD ARE BROUGHT OUT. THE LITTLE SERVANT GIRL CARRIES A VERY HEAVY ONE WHICH MAKES HER STAGGER. MIGUEL HELPS HER. THE MARIACHIS PLAY AND SOME PEOPLE DANCE.)

ESPERANZA

Hortensia!

HORTENSIA

Yes, mi reina...

ESPERANZA

Buckle my shoes ,please. My hands are shaking. I'm too excited. My papa's brought me a doll from Sevilla!

(HORTENSIA SHAKES HER HEAD .AS SOON AS THE SHOES ARE BUCKLED ESPERANZA RUNS FOR THE DOOR WHERE A WELL-DRESSED GIRL, MARIELENA, APPROACHES HER. THE LITTLE SERVANT GIRL FOLLOWS.)

MARIELENA

Felicidades Esperanza Felicidades. I love your dress. So much lace. Almost like mine, oooo and a mountain of presents. You are so lucky. Let's open some!

ESPERANZA

Let's look at the doll!

(THE LITTLE SERVANT GIRL FOLLOWS HESITANTLY. BUT SHE ISN'T NOTICED UNTIL THEY ARRIVE AT THE STACK OF PRESENTS. MARIAELENA TURNS TO THE GIRL.)

MARIAELENA

Yes? What do you want?

LITTLE GIRL

To see all the pretty things.

MARIAELENA

Don't they need you in the kitchen?

(ESPERANZA UNWRAPS HER FATHER'S PRESENT. IT IS A TRAVELING CHEST WITH A BEAUTIFUL DOLL INSIDE.)

MARIELENA

Ooooo look, an itty bitty comb with pearls.. and a white mantilla and gloves. Mine doesn't have gloves.

ESPERANZA

And look at all these clothes !.
(SHE TAKES OUT DRESS AFTER DRESS.)

MARIELENA

What are you going to name her?

ESPERANZA

I don't know yet...I have to think of a very special name.

MARIELENA

She has real lashes on her eyes. Oooooooo. I'm so jealous!

(THE SERVANT GIRL REACHES OUT TO TOUCH THE DRESSES.)

SERVANT GIRL

Ayyyy, mona..que mona...

(ESPERANZA JERKS THE DOLL AWAY FROM HER. MARIELENA SLAPS HER HAND)

MARIELENA

India prieta - anda
I told you to go to the kitchen!

(THE LITTLE GIRL STARTS TO CRY. RAMONA AND HORTENSIA ENTER.)

HORTENSIA

Escuincla- que haces aqui?

SERVANT GIRL

Quise ver los regalos, no mas